



Hackney Special Education Crisis

MARCH 2018 NEWS UPDATE

Thank you everyone for your amazing work over the last few months. We came together to fight Hackney's consultation proposals and as a result the Council has backed down for now, but they are still planning to proceed with huge SEND cuts.

SEND Cuts Summary

- 5% cuts to education, health and care plans are going ahead from 1st April 2018.
- The Council is negotiating with special schools and wants to make cuts of 13.5%.
- They are still looking at alternative funding arrangements for SEND in mainstream schools and plan to make further significant cuts in April 2019.

These SEND cuts total £1.9 million and there are more to come. The Council wants to cut a further £2-4 million. Transport and Pupil Referral Units are listed as the next targets. We need your help to stop this from happening.

Upcoming Events - TOMORROW MORNING

HiP 'Law in a Day' event 9.30-2.30pm

BBC Breakfast talks to SEND families 11.30am

26th March 2018, Forest Road Youth Centre, 29 Forest Road, London, E8 3BY

- Barrister Steve Broach will be discussing, "The Law In A Day: Key legal issues in health, education and social care for disabled children and young people aged 0-25 and their families." There will also be an opportunity to speak to solicitors from Simpson Millar LLP solicitors.
- Jayne McCubbin from BBC Breakfast would like to talk to any SEND families who will be affected by cuts. If you've had difficulties getting an EHCP or accessing services please come along and share your story. You do not have to attend the law seminar or book to come to this.
- Pre-booking is ONLY essential for the Steve Broach seminar (see link below)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-law-in-a-day-key-legal-issues-in-health-education-and-social-care-for-disabled-children-and-tickets-43948080893>

Other News

Legal Action

Several families have come forward to explore the possibility of taking legal action against the 5% cuts on behalf of all children with EHCPs in Hackney. We are preparing a crowdfunding campaign to raise the funds for initial legal advice and hope you will support us. More news on this soon.

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Special Schools

We are talking to parents, governors and staff at Hackney's special schools which this year face budget cuts of up to 13.5%.

Meeting with Diane Abbott

Turkish parents/carers of children and young people with EHCPs met with Diane Abbott on 23rd March to discuss their concerns regarding cuts, statutory delays and the lack of support for Turkish speaking families and other ethnic minority communities.

HIP Recruit and Regroup Event

SEND families met to compare EHCPs and support one another on 23 March. Many EHCPs were alarmingly poor - with inadequate and in one case no provision specified. This event proved very popular and we hope that it will be repeated.

Meeting with Deputy Mayor Anntoinette Bramble/Cabinet Meeting

Members of Hackney Special Education Crisis met the Deputy Mayor and Councillor Chris Kennedy on 19th March. Anntoinette Bramble confirmed that the Council would be proceeding with cuts of 5% from 1st April 2018 and advised that a Task and Finish group was being set up to discuss revisions to SEND funding arrangements with key stakeholders. It became clear that these revisions would involve significant cuts. Hackney Special Education Crisis made it clear that families could not be part of a co-production process that amounted to co-reduction.

You can now stay up to date with the campaign by joining our campaign forum. Click on the following link available for the next 15 days to sign up and keep posted on what's happening.

https://join.slack.com/t/hackspecialdcrisis/shared_invite/enQtMzI3ODIyNTcyNTk2LTc3ZDdjYjBkNzBiMWOzYmZmYTI5ZDc0NWU3ZWJhZjY5YWJIMmM1MDdhZWZjNzNiMTdlZTZINzhINTA3NWMyNDQ